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ABSTRACT

Instructional workload policies in community colleges around the country were investigated in order to determine whether changes have been occurring over the past few years and to compare the policy of Cuyahoga Community College with those of similar institutions. Mailed questionnaires resulted in 27 out of 37 possible responses. Load policies were requested in terms of minimum, maximum, and "most frequent" or normal loads expressed in academic credit and/or contact (class) hours per week, as well as in average aggregate student contact hours per week per full-time equivalent faculty member. Institutions reporting a "most frequent" weekly average per faculty member cited 14.8 for credit hours and 15.0 for contact hours. The average of the seven institutions that provided information about aggregate weekly student contact hours per FTE faculty was 457 hours. The figures for Cuyahoga Community College were slightly lower for academic credit hours and contact hours and considerably lower for contact hours per FTE faculty. Of the 16 institutions that provided comparative data for both 1973 and 1975, only one reported a decrease in workload policy during that time and none reported an increase. No significant differences were found between the policies of the union and nonunion groups of institutions. Survey responses are presented in tables by institution, and the questionnaire is included. (MJB)

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FULL-TIME INSTRUCTIONAL LOAD POLICIES IN SELECTED COMMUNITY-JUNIOR COLLEGES

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SUMMARY

A comparison of CCC policy to the 1976 full-time instructional load policies of selected community-junior colleges indicated that:

- All but one of eighteen other institutions cited 15 academic credits per week as a normal load. CCC's policy is 12 credits.
- The average range of contact hours per week reported by these institutions was 14 to 19. CCC's range is 12 to 18.
- One out of sixteen institutions experienced a change in policy --- a decrease in maximum load --- from 1973 to 1976. CCC has experienced no change.
- The average for seven institutions reporting average student contact hours per full-time equivalent faculty was 457. A preliminary estimate of CCC's average is 381.

Analysis indicated that teaching load policies did not significantly differ between union and nonunion groups of institutions in the sample.

FULL-TIME INSTRUCTIONAL LOAD POLICIES IN SELECTED COMMUNITY-JUNIOR COLLEGES

INTRODUCTION

Community-junior colleges contacted for the 1975-76 survey of faculty compensation were asked to furnish information about their full-time instructional load policies. The primary purpose for collecting this information was to provide a comparison to EEE. In the process of pursuing this purpose, a number of questions arose. Have load policies changed in the past few years? Might changes in load policies be related to changes in compensation increases? Are the load policies in institutions with unionized faculty different from those in institutions without faculty unions?

DATA COLLECTION

Institutions were asked to express their policies regarding a full-time instructional load in two units: academic credits per week and contact hours per week. Contact hours were defined as the number of clock hours per week spent with students in class. (See Appendix I for a copy of the questionnaire.) Minimum and maximum credit and/or contact hours were requested, along with the "most frequent" number denoting what constitutes a normal load.

Institutions also were asked to report their average student contact hours per week per full-time equivalent faculty.

Twenty-seven of 32 institutions contacted provided instructional load information. These institutions and the credit and/or contact hour data which they submitted are identified in Appendix II. Only seven institutions furnished average SCH per FTE faculty. The 16 institutions which are italicized in Appendix II represent the group for which 1973 instructional load data are also available.

A comparison of the load information provided in 1975 to that submitted in 1973 by 18 institutions indicated a need for additional follow-up. In 13 of 18 cases it appeared that there had been a change in policy. Each of the 13 institutions was contacted again, this time with a copy of the 1973 and 1975 load data on record. They were asked whether there had been, in fact, a change in policy. (See Appendix III for a copy of the letter and form sent.) Ten institutions confirmed that there had been a change, ten institutions reported no change and submitted revised data, and one institution did not respond. One of the two institutions noting a change in policy could not provide comparable data for the two years. So the 1973-75 comparison group consisted of 16 rather than 13 institutions.

Limitations of the Survey

The purpose of the survey was to provide information about faculty workload in colleges which might compare with Eastern Kentucky University. The colleges were presumed to be primarily oriented to instruction. Consequently data related to instructional assignments were presumed to provide a good representation of the total faculty workload. Faculty involvement in such areas as curriculum development, institutional governance, research, and service, were presumed to be roughly comparable in the different institutions. It should be recognized, however, that workload in non-instructional areas of faculty workload may well explain the differences in workload in the instructional areas.

The data on credit hours of instruction and instructional contact hours are understandable but colleges use different definitions of student terms. These differences in definitions might also explain the differences in workload as reported in these units.

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APPENDIX II (Continued)

INSTRUCTIONAL LOAD POLICIES BY INSTITUTION

Institution	Information Submitted by Institution						Information Used to Calculate Averages					
	Academic Credits Per Week			Clock Hours Per Week Spent with Students in Class			Credits Per Week			Contact Hours Per Week		
	Min.	Max.	Most Frequent	Min.	Max.	Most Frequent	Min.	Max.	Most Frequent	Min.	Max.	Most Frequent
Portland	--	--	15	35 hrs. per week on campus for class time, office hrs & other prep			--	--	15	--	--	--
Minnesota	--	15	--	--	20	--	--	15	--	--	22.5	--
				25 for Voc Ed								
Massachusetts	12	18	15	- No Policy -			12	18	15	- No Policy -		
Spokane	15	--	--	15	30	--	15	--	--	15	30	--
Queensborough	- No Policy -			14	16	15	- No Policy -			14	16	15
Triton	14	16	15	14	16	15	14	16	15	14	16	15
Oakland	12	--	--	20	--	--	12	--	--	20	--	--
Los Angeles	12	18	15	--	--	15	12	18	15	--	--	15
Metropolitan	14	16	15	18	21	18	14	16	15	18	21	18
Kern	- No Policy*-			- No Policy -			- No Policy -			- No Policy -		

*These figures represented 50-minute hours which were subsequently reported as whole hours, i.e. 12 to 1.

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